DISTINGUISHED LAW ALUMNI AWARD

Alan J. Dixon, LLB ‘49, is a partner at the St. Louis-based firm of Bryan Cave LLP. Before joining this firm, Dixon was a leader in the United States Senate, representing the people of Illinois for 12 years. During his Senate career, he held important committee positions on the Agriculture, Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs, Small Business, and Armed Services Committees. As a senior member of the Senate Banking Committee, Dixon was among the first to introduce legislation to bring to justice those guilty of savings and loan fraud. He also was the first senator of the 102nd Congress to introduce legislation to help keep the banking industry vibrant and healthy and to head off the burden of another multi-million dollar taxpayer bailout. Dixon’s efforts to assure affordable housing bore fruit when the Federal National Mortgage Association announced steps to make its home mortgage policies and procedures more amenable for working families in low- and moderate-income communities, particularly those in minority neighborhoods. Dixon’s 43-year public career began in law school when he was elected Belleville police magistrate. He then went on to serve as Illinois state representative, state senator, state treasurer, and secretary of state. In his state legislative career, which included the Illinois House and Senate, Dixon wrote or co-sponsored legislation that produced or nurtured the state’s modern criminal code, the modern judicial article to the Illinois constitution, its community college system, and its open meeting law.

DISTINGUISHED LAW ALUMNI AWARD

Robert O. Hetlage, JD ‘54, is of counsel for Blackwell Sanders Peper Martin in St. Louis. Listed in Best Lawyers in America, Who’s Who in the World, and Euromoney Publications’ Guide to the World’s Leading Real Estate Lawyers, Hetlage is a leader in the legal and civic community. While a law student, he served as managing editor of the Washington University Law Quarterly and was awarded membership in the Order of the Coif. After graduating from law school, he served with the United States Army in the JAG Corps International Affairs Division at the Pentagon. Upon his return to St. Louis, Hetlage practiced with his brother for eight years before they joined with others in 1966 as Peper, Martin, Jensen, Maichel and Hetlage. After serving as partner and subsequently chair of the firm, he became of counsel in January 1998, shortly before the firm merged with Blackwell Sanders in June 1998. Hetlage is a past president of the Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis, the Missouri Bar, the American College of Real Estate Lawyers, the St. Louis Council on World Affairs, and the St. Louis Transitional Hope House. He served on the American Bar Association Commission on Evaluation of Professional Standards, which drafted the Model Rules of Professional Conduct. He is also a past chair of the American Bar Association Real Property, Probate, and Trust Law Section; the Anglo-American Real Property Institute; and the American Bar Association Standing Committee on Ethics and Professional Responsibility. Hetlage is a member of the Executive Committee of the American Bar Foundation Board of Trustees and co-chair of the School of Law’s Tyrrell Williams Lecture Committee.
DISTINGUISHED LAW ALUMNI AWARD

Margaret Howard, JD/MSW '75, is a professor of law at Vanderbilt University Law School. As a law student, Howard held a summer clerkship at the Southern Poverty Law Center in Montgomery, Alabama. Upon graduation she was inducted into the Order of the Coif and awarded the Breckenridge Prize for the highest academic average in the senior year. Howard entered academia in 1977 as an assistant professor at Saint Louis University School of Law prior to joining the Vanderbilt faculty in 1982. Through her writing and teaching, Howard has established herself as a well-known scholar in the field of bankruptcy and commercial law. She has written a number of articles tracing developments in bankruptcy law and is a frequent speaker to the conference of bankruptcy judges. In 1997 Howard and others presented a position paper and testimony on discharge in consumer bankruptcy for the National Bankruptcy Review Commission. She has been a visiting law professor at Duke University, Emory University, University of North Carolina, and Washington University. Howard serves on a number of editorial boards of bankruptcy and business law journals, including the Journal of Bankruptcy Law and Practice and Business Law Today. She is the author of Bankruptcy Cases and Materials. Her innovative teaching, such as offering a computer simulation bankruptcy seminar, helped earn her the Hartman Teaching Award from Vanderbilt in 1999. A few of her professional activities have included serving on the board of directors of the Mid-South Commercial Law Institute, the American Bankruptcy Board of Certification, and the editorial boards of the American Bankruptcy Law Journal and The Business Lawyer. She is also a member of the Merit Selection Panel for the Middle District of Tennessee to assist the Sixth Circuit Council in the selection of bankruptcy judges. Before entering academia, Howard was an associate at Lewis and Rice in St. Louis.

DISTINGUISHED LAW ALUMNI AWARD

Reuben M. Morriss III, LLB ’64, is retired vice chair of Boatmen’s Trust Company. He began his banking career at Boatmen’s shortly after graduating from law school. In 1971, Morriss was elected senior vice president of Boatmen’s National Bank of St. Louis and later appointed executive vice president and senior trust officer. His inclination toward a business career, as opposed to seeking a position at a law firm, was likely inspired by his earlier work experience in the family-owned business, Wood Treating Chemical Company, which was started by his grandfather and later bought by Monsanto. Strongly committed to education and young people, Morriss has served both as president and board member of Mary Institute and William Woods University and as the director of the Children’s Home Society of Missouri. He has supported the endeavors of his alma mater, Washington University, for more than 20 years. Morriss’s role as chair of the Annual Fund during the School of Law’s Building for a New Century campaign was critical in helping to raise the funds necessary for the construction of Anheuser-Busch Hall. Currently a member of the Law National Council, Morriss is a life member of the William Eliot Greenleaf Society and has served on the Eliot Society Membership Committee and also on the Alumni Board of Governors. The St. Louis Bi-State American Red Cross, St. Luke’s Hospital, Episcopal Diocese of Missouri, and the Opera Theatre of St. Louis have all benefited from his leadership role as director. Other board memberships have included the Vestery of St. Michael’s and St. George Episcopal Church, the Missouri Historical Society, and Bellefontaine Cemetery. His professional affiliations include the Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis, the Missouri Bar, and the American Bar Association.
Rodney W. Sippel, JD ’81,
is a judge for the United States District Court, both the Eastern and Western Districts of Missouri. Throughout law school, Sippel held outside employment, including serving as staff assistant to then-United States Senator Thomas F. Eagleton and as a field director for Eagleton’s last Senate campaign. Despite his busy schedule, Sippel managed to be a member of several regional moot court competition teams, including the 1981 International Moot Court Team, which advanced to the national semifinals. Upon graduation he was among the students selected for the Order of the Barristers because of his excellence in and service to lawyering skills competition. In 1982, Sippel joined the St. Louis law firm of Husch, Eppenberger, Donohue, Elson and Cornfeld, now known as Husch & Eppenberger, as an associate. His legal practice evolved from personal injury defense to commercial litigation, focusing primarily on the Uniform Commercial Code, lender liability claims, non-compete agreements, Lanham Act claims, and antitrust actions. Elevated to partner in 1989, Sippel also served as co-chair of the firm’s hiring committee and coordinator of the volunteer lawyer’s program. In 1993 Sippel returned to public service as the administrative assistant to United States Representative Richard A. Gephardt; one of his biggest challenges was working to solve the problems caused by the 1993 flooding in Missouri. In the fall of 1995, Sippel returned to Husch & Eppenberger, as partner and vice chairman of the firm’s litigation department, until his judicial appointment in 1998.

Catherine D. Perry, JD ’80,is a judge for the United States District Court, Eastern District of Missouri. Prior to her appointment by President Bill Clinton in 1994, she served as magistrate judge for the same court. As a law student, Perry was managing editor of the Washington University Law Quarterly and active in the Women’s Law Caucus. Other law school honors included Order of the Coif and Am Jur Awards in Constitutional Law, Criminal Law, and Future Interests. Upon graduation from law school, she became an associate at the St. Louis firm now known as Armstrong Teasdale; she was elected to partnership in 1987. Throughout her career, Perry has maintained close ties to the law school, teaching both Pretrial Procedure and Legal Writing as an adjunct professor, frequently judging moot court competitions, and speaking at various classes and student meetings. Perry also serves on the Committee on Automation and Technology, a committee of the United States Judicial Conference, which recommends automation policy for the federal judiciary. She is chair of the Subcommittee on Information Technology Security and Education. Within the Eastern District of Missouri, she serves as chair of the judges’ automation committee. Like most federal judges, Perry is a frequent speaker at bar functions and continuing legal education seminars. Recently she has spoken about effective uses of technology in the courtroom and published, What Works: Evidence from a Trial Judge’s Perspective in the American Bar Association’s Litigation Magazine.
ORDER OF THE COIF INDUCTS NEW MEMBERS

On May 18, an atmosphere of celebration filled the Janite Lee Reading Room of Anheuser-Busch Hall as family and friends gathered for the induction ceremony of 19 new members to the Washington University chapter of the Order of the Coif. Invitation for membership in this honorary society is extended to students who have demonstrated academic excellence by graduating at the top 10 percent of their class. Robert Thompson, former chapter president and then the George Alexander Madill Professor of Law, also inducted Cynthia Glee Heath, JD ’82 as an honorary member.

Heath is assistant vice president of executive compensation for Emerson Electric Co., a $14-billion company that employs more than 100,000. In nominating Heath for honorary membership, Thompson extolled not only Heath’s professional accomplishments, but also her long-standing commitment to education.

“Cynthia has been a stalwart supporter of our School as well as many other community causes,” says Joel Seligman, dean and the Ethan A.H. Shepley University Professor. “She is a leader and a role model for others.”

Heath’s involvement at the School of Law is extensive, including service as the Eliot Society chair for the Annual Fund, the Century Club chair for the Building for a New Century campaign, and chair of her class reunion. She also served on the Alumni Dean Search Interview Committee. Beyond the University, Heath’s involvement has included the Williams School Partnership Program, the FOCUS St. Louis Leadership program, and school committees.

“Cynthia has been a stalwart supporter of our School as well as many other community causes,” says Joel Seligman, dean and the Ethan A.H. Shepley University Professor. “She is a leader and a role model for others.”

Heath’s involvement at the School of Law is extensive, including service as the Eliot Society chair for the Annual Fund, the Century Club chair for the Building for a New Century campaign, and chair of her class reunion. She also served on the Alumni Dean Search Interview Committee. Beyond the University, Heath’s involvement has included the Williams School Partnership Program, the FOCUS St. Louis Leadership program, and school committees.

Front row (left to right): Michelle Michelson, Victoria Zerjav, Jennifer Cays Raymond, Rebecca Pinto, Rena Samole, Claire Gibson, Stephen Taylor, John Shively, and Dean Joel Seligman. Back row (left to right): Cynthia Heath, Lisa Hibbard Boero, Heather Leawoods, Gregory Binns, Marc Skapof, Donald Raymond, Jr., Rodney Fahs, Kurt Hoffman, Eric Schultenover, Andrew Ruben, and David Gearhart.
ALUMNI NEWS

ALUMNI DIRECTORY GOES ONLINE

Washington University has launched its first online alumni directory. Now you can instantly update your address and employment information, look up former classmates, and customize searches using a wide selection of criteria, such as class years or geographic regions. Use of the directory is free, and access is exclusively limited to alumni.

To explore the directory, visit www.wustlconnections.com. Before you can gain access to the system, you will need to provide your last name and user ID number to obtain a password. Your seven-digit personalized user ID number appeared in the directory announcement mailed in March 2000. If you did not receive the announcement, you can contact the Web master at alumniwebmaster@aismail.wustl.edu.

The directory can be an invaluable resource, but its success depends on active alumni participation in keeping the information current. Get connected today and renew old friendships.

STUDENTS HONOR FLEISSIG AT INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY CELEBRATION

The Women’s Law Caucus recognized Audrey Fleissig, JD ’80, during its inaugural celebration of International Women’s Day.

“Through our annual celebration of International Women’s Day, we hope to highlight the successes of women in legal education and in the legal profession who served as role models, mentors, and colleagues for women law students at Washington University,” says Michelle Nasser, JD ’00.

This past January Fleissig became the first woman appointed to the post of United States attorney for the Eastern District of Missouri. Formerly a litigation partner with the St. Louis law firm of Peper, Martin, Jensen, Maichel and Hetlage (now Blackwell, Sanders, Peper, Martin), Fleissig entered public service in 1991 as an assistant United States attorney in the Eastern District’s Criminal Division.

Throughout her professional career Fleissig has been actively involved at the School of Law, where she has taught trial and pretrial advocacy skills as an adjunct professor.

“As a former member of the Women’s Law Caucus, I find that this recognition truly has special meaning,” Fleissig says. “I can’t even begin to count the women classmates and colleagues who have supported and encouraged me over the years. And there were other women lawyers already there before I graduated who broke down the barriers for me. They taught me by their example that it is my job to help others make this a more just and fairer community, and I want to tell you now that it is your job. You serve as role models for women and minority students who come after you. What you do and what I do in this country will stand as a model for other countries where women and minorities have little or no opportunities and where ethnic cleansing remains a horrific reality.”

As part of the celebration, students also presented awards of appreciation to Katherine Goldwasser, professor of law and associate dean of student affairs, and to Susan Appleton, the Lemma Barkeloo and Phoebe Couzins Professor of Law and associate dean of faculty, for their leadership and commitment to legal education.

Participants in the International Women’s Day celebration included (from the left) Patavee Vanadilok, JD ’01; Associate Dean Katherine Goldwasser; Audrey Fleissig, JD ’80; Associate Dean Susan Appleton; and Michelle Nasser, JD ’00.